10/796,145 CE 7/2/08

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Art Unit: 1754

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line ~~26~~ 23, CE 7/2/08 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the invention, the oxygen absorber is the matrix material filled with the iron powder coated with the iron chloride. Accordingly, the oxygen absorber comprises two major ~~component~~ components, thereby eliminating the complex material handling and manufacturing process. The iron powder is coated with the iron chloride through a reaction between iron and hydrochloric acid. Alternatively, anhydrous ferric chloride is dissolved in ether or alcohol to obtain a coating solution, and the iron powder is added in the solution to coat the surface thereof with ferric chloride. It is also possible to mix the iron powder with solid anhydrous ferric chloride in an intensive mixer so that a chemical reaction between the iron and the ferric chloride takes place on the surface of the iron powder to form the first layer. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~7~~ 6, line ~~8~~ 32, CE 7/2/08 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Other methods of forming iron chloride on the powder surface ~~includes~~ include mixing molten ferric chloride hexahydrate ~~is mixed~~ with iron powder at 100-200°F, so that ferric chloride hexahydrate ($FeCl_2.6H_2O$) is formed on the surface of the iron powder. It is preferred that the iron chloride layer is formed through a chemical reaction so that the iron chloride layer becomes a part of the iron crystal lattice. Accordingly, it takes a relatively short period of time for the iron chloride layer to penetrate into the oxide layer on the iron particles to get the reaction started. -